

Drunk Driving in Delhi

360. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India, dated June 21, 1996 regarding fatal accidents by a drunk driver of a bus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people booked for drunken driving in Delhi during the last six months and the action taken against them;

(d) the number of deaths caused due to drunken driving during the last one year;

(e) whether the Government propose to make stringent law in this regard to save innocent pedestrian in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Distribution of Mutilated Currency Notes

361. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases regarding distribution of mutilated currency notes by the nationalised banks have been brought to the notice of the Government during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of banks alongwith their branches involved therein;

(c) the details of the enquiry conducted in this regard and the outcome thereof, and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government has received a complaint dated 13.6.96 from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament stating that a customer of Dena Bank's Connaught Circus branch had obtained a payment of Rs. 1000/- in denomination of Rs. 10/- notes. The packet is stated to have contained 57 notes in mutilated/pasted/unusable condition. Information has also been obtained from other nationalised banks. Two banks, i.e., Union Bank of India and Bank of India have reported receiving complaints in this regard. The details of these are as under :

Union Bank of India

The Bank had received a complaint against their Sunder Nagar Branch, New Delhi regarding issuance of soiled and mutilated currency notes.

Bank of India :

Three cases have come to the notice of the bank as per details below :

(i) *Bullion Exchange Branch* : On 20.3.96 the officials of Central Bank of India had called on the branch with 3 packets of currency notes of 100 rupees denominations. One of the packets had the slip of the branch. Each packet contained 15-25 manipulated currency notes. The currency notes were manipulated by joining plain paper on the left hand side or at the middle to the genuine portions (pieces) of currency notes. The note slip of Bullion Exchange Branch had the account number of the account holder of the Branch written over the slip and had the stamp 'machine counted'. All the three packets had about 5/6 staples, two of them were on the middle of the packet. It was apparent that the note slip bearing the name of Bullion Exchange Branch was reused on the packet to indicate that the packet was received from some customer and prepared by someone else. The remaining two packets contained the slips of other banks including a Co-operative Bank.

(ii) *Khodadad Circle Branch* : On 22.3.96 the Bank had noticed one packet of hundred rupees denomination having about 8 staples, a few on the middle of the packet. This packet was one of the packets received from the customer who had deposited Rs. 1 lakh in cash. Upon scrutiny, 35 manipulated notes were found with the newspaper pasted in the middle or on the left hand side of genuine pieces of currency notes. The packet was bearing the note slip of State Bank of Mysore. A complaint has been lodged with the police and the 35 manipulated notes have been handed over to them. The account holder concerned has stated having brought the particular cash from Pune.

(iii) *Nariman Point Branch* : As per the news item published in Indian Express Mumbai edition dated 20.5.1996, one Shri K.M. Vakil found 5 defective notes in one packet of fifty rupees denomination from the amount withdrawn from the Nariman Point Branch on 12.4.96. However, as Shri Vakil had already opened the packet and brought the defective currency notes after considerable lapse of time and was not in a position to produce any documentary evidence such as note slip, etc. it could not be established that these defective notes were from the packet received by him from the Bank's Nariman Point Branch.

(c) On receipt of the complaint on 13.6.96 of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Government had taken up the matter with Dena Bank. The complainant while approaching the branch for exchange of 57 notes was not able to produce the packet with bank's slip and on account of that bank took the stand that the mutilated currency notes were not issued by them. Notwithstanding this, the Bank was advised

and has offered to exchange these notes with usable notes. The complainant has not so far accepted the issuable notes in exchange of the mutilated notes.

(d) According to Reserve Bank of India some instances of a few note packets containing some notes made up of papers stuck on the left hand stitched portion were in circulation had come to their notice. Reserve Bank of India have issued a press release on 18.4.96 informing the public to check currency notes packets received in the daily transaction even if they bear banks stamp. As per the advise of Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association has also issued circular to all member banks detailing the modus-operandi of the miscreants and cautioning the operational staff to exercise care while accepting the cash. On the basis of complaint of the Hon'ble Member, Government has also requested Reserve Bank of India to issue fresh instructions to all banks to take adequate steps to prevent the issuing of unusable notes to their customers.

Bench of BIFR at Calcutta

362. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Bench of Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present

(b) Does not arise

Generation of Employment Opportunity by NABARD

363. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has a plan to generate massive employment opportunity by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total contemplated investment therein; and

(c) the progress made by the NABARD in that direction during the last two years, and the amount of investments made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not drawn up any specific plan for generation of massive employment opportunities. However, while NABARD is not directly involved in generation of employment,

refinance is provided by it to banks for financing various agricultural and rural activities, which provides gainful employment in rural sector.

Schemes sanctioned for refinance by NABARD pertain to agriculture and allied activities such as social forestry, aquaculture, sericulture, mushroom cultivation and various other occupations in traditional areas like dairy development, sheep rearing, piggery, goat rearing, etc. NABARD has reported that it has provided an amount of Rs. 7,813 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 8,377 crores in 1995-96 as refinance support for production and investment credit under various activities.

Closure of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota

364. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether many units of Instrumentation Ltd. particularly in Kota unit are facing financial strain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Company is incurring losses as it is not able to face increasing competition. As a result, it is facing working capital constraint and difficulty in meeting various liabilities.

(c) The Company is a sick company under reference to BIFR as per provisions of SICA. Non-Plan Budgetary support and funds for VRS are being provided to the Company

Benches of Allahabad High Court

365. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up benches of Allahabad High Court at Meerut and Bareilly in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so, the time by which they are likely to be set, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Jaswant Singh Commission recommended the establishment of a